DOUG LAMBORN 5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515—0605

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Dear Colleague,

I write to urge you to support the Schoolchildren's Health Protection Act of 2008. This bill prohibits schools that receive federal funds from distributing so-called "emergency contraception" pills, such as the "morning-after pill" to children. This is the same language that was introduced in the 108th Congress by Rep. Melissa Hart. America's federally funded grade schools and high schools should not be in the business of dispensing drugs capable of and used for chemical abortions.

Among the health risks cited by the manufacturer of one of these drugs include increased risk of: blood clots, heart attack, and stroke.

Any school-based health clinic receiving federal funds under Medicaid, SCHIP, or Title X is authorized to distribute any contraception, including the morning-after pill. In almost every case, federal laws and regulations prohibit informing the parents of sexually active minors about health care they receive. As a result, school nurses can give out the morning-after pill without the parents ever knowing or being involved. These federal regulations overrule all state and local parental notice requirements.

A CRS Memo in 2000 found that at least 180 schools across the country may dispense the morning-after pill at school-based clinics, and the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care estimates those numbers to be the same today.

I hope that you will join me in protecting our youth. Please contact Allison Hines in my office at 202.225.4422 or <u>Allison.Hines@mail.house.gov</u> for more information or to sign on as a cosponsor.

Sincerely,

Doug Lamborn (CO-05) Member of Congress